

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 9 and 24 have been amended to recite all the limitations of the claims from which they depend.

No new matter has therefore been added.

Applicants note that on page 3 of the Office Action, the Office indicated that claims 9 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants note the claims have been re-written as indicated.

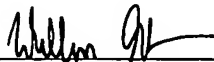
Applicants further note that all other claims have been canceled, rendering all other rejections moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the present application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Toshio MIYATA et al.

By:   
William R. Schmidt, II  
Registration No. 58,327  
Attorney for Applicants

WRS/lq  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
April 22, 2008